Principal's Copy

# Gram Sevak

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Road-making in Kulu

मज़दूर मंज़िल

ग्राम सेवक

## GRAM SEVAK

Magha—Phalgun, 1879

Vol. 4 February, 1958 No. 7

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# "If All Now Work For The Nation"

*Ramadhikari Pandey, V.L.W.,*

*C.D. Block, Pateypur, Distt. Muzaffarpur.*

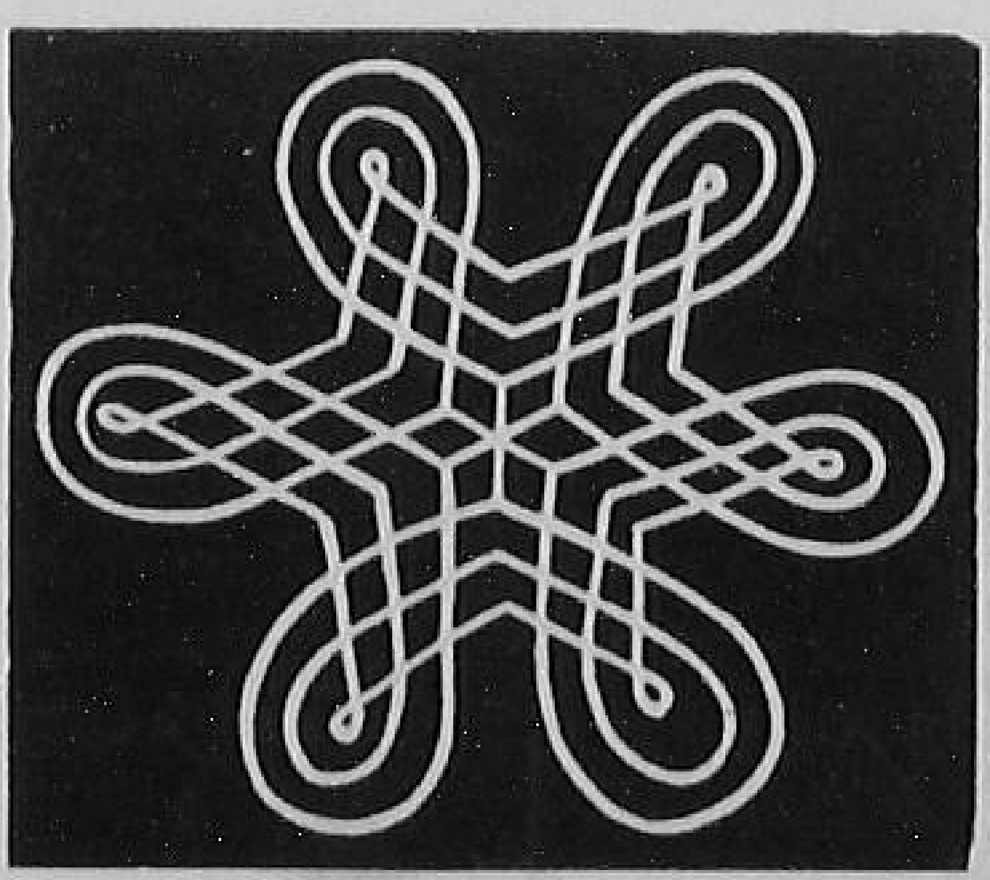
Our country will go ahead, no doubt,
Its morning is much too bright;
And those who have now reached the top,
Have cordially praised its flight.

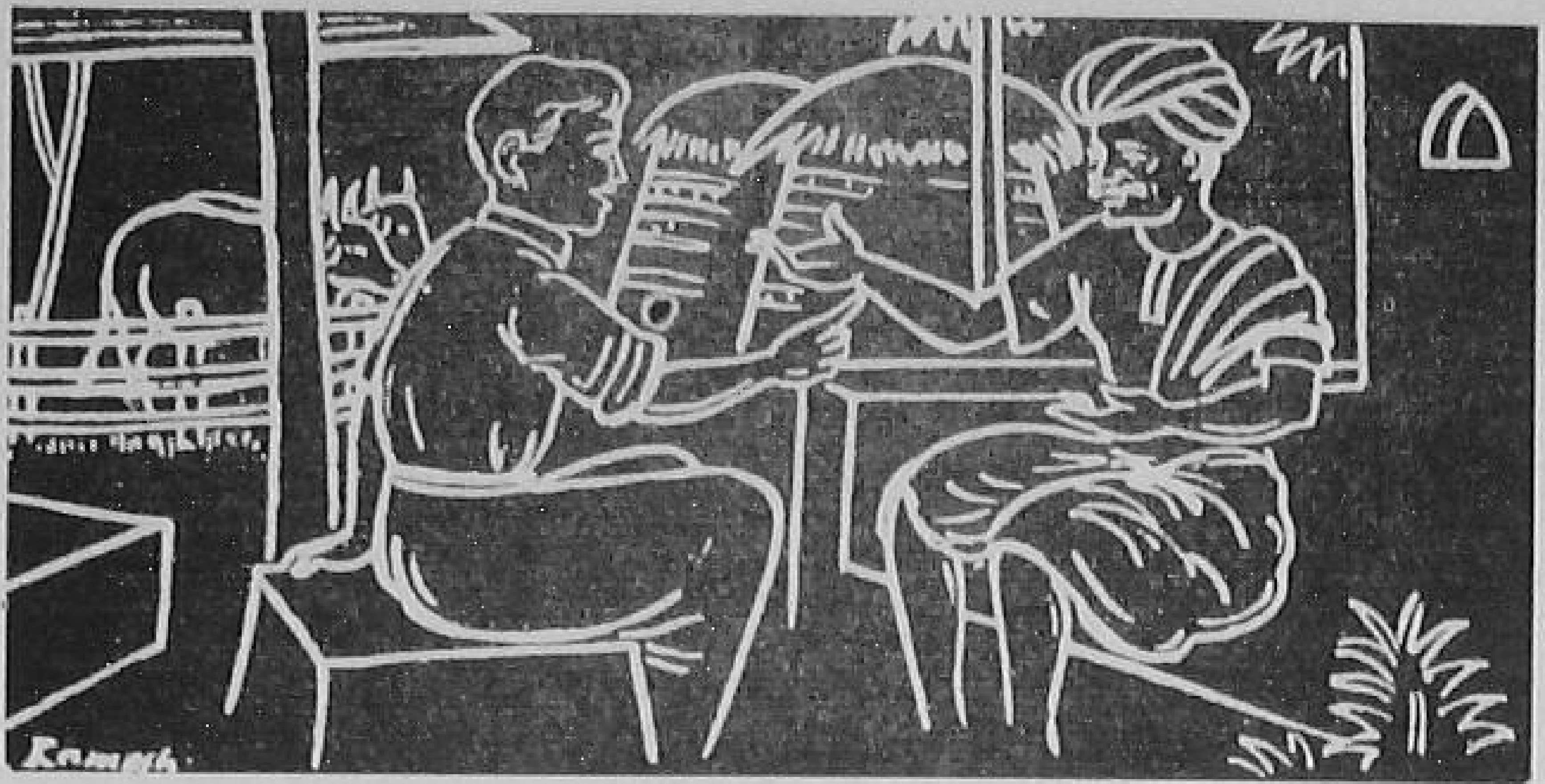
You know we have not reached the top,
But we won't be depressed;
And all obstacles on our way,
Must now be bravely faced.

Let heaven be caged in your palms,
And wealth like water flow,
And peace and pleasures in this world,
Like air for all to blow.

My brothers, you may have all these things,
If all now work for the nation,
And after a few steps you will see,
There is no more perturbation.

Now, come in the field and be not tired.
Till you will reach the goal,
You must make attempts now to fill,
Your nation's every hole.





# Bat-Chit

*Gram Sevak*: *Ram, Ram*, Choudhuriji. Why do you look so sad and what is all this noise about?

*Villager*: *Ram, Ram* Gram Sevak Sahib. I am glad you have come. I am really in a fix.

*Gram Sevak*: Tell me the reason and we shall try to work out the solution.

*Villager*: It is rather a delicate matter but since you are my friend and also because you know much more about these things, I do not mind telling you about it. You see I am now nearing 50. We have already nine children and the tenth was born yesterday. At this rate, I do not know how to feed them.

*Gram Sevak*: Well, I suppose something should be done about it. You know we have a scheme now by which it is possible to have only a limited number of children in keeping with your income and circumstances.

*Villager*: Yes, I have been hearing about it for the last so many years but nobody has told us clearly what it is and how it can be brought about ?

*Gram Sevak*: Well my dear friend, you will have expert advice on it very soon. In every block, we are now trying to have family planning centres with expert doctors and social workers who would explain to the village women and men all about it. In the U.P., for instance, one Assistant Director of Medical and Health Service will soon be appointed to look after the family planning work.

*Villager*: Did you say family planning ?

*Gram Sevak*: Yes, yes, family planning means to plan your family as far as the number of children is concerned. Suppose your income or the state of health of your wife does not allow you to have more children. Or you feel that after sometime, you would like to have a child. Now things like these are certainly possible and it would be the duty of those who are in charge of the new Maternity centres to help the villagers with expert advice. Now, cheer up and tell me the news of the village.

*Villager*: You know our new Panchayat has been formed and this time I must tell you Gram Sevak Sahib, these new ideas have spoiled the whole atmosphere of the village.

*Gram Sevak*: What has happened ?

*Villager*: In the old days, we did not have to vote or convass for candidature of the Panchayats. We knew our village headmen who were respected because of their age and experience. These village leaders sat together and formed a Panchayat. They could decide all the important village matters. They knew all the villagers personally and were known for their honesty and integrity. But today things are different. Some youngsters from the nearby town came in different batches and began to abuse each other asking us to vote for different party candidates. This was quite bewildering.

*Gram Sevak*: What did you do finally ?

*Villager*: We listened to them respectfully and did exactly what we wanted to do.

*Gram Sevak*: What did you do ?

*Villager*: We voted our village leaders into panchayat and that settled it. You should have seen the faces of these youngsters who wanted to teach us to do things.

*Gram Sevak*: I am sure you did the right thing. I can tell you Choudhuriji that these townsmen have to learn

as much from the villages—if not more—as the villagers from the towns. Actually, I have seen how these elder men or the Panches decide matters. There is no question of voting and all of them make unanimous or agreed decisions. They persuade the parties, convince them of their mistakes and see that an amicable settlement is made of all the important issues.

*Villager* : Now Gram Sevak Sahib you have been to Delhi recently. Has anything important happened ?

*Gram Sevak* : Yes, many things have happened. You know, there is a very important committee whose members are the Chief Ministers of all the States and important Ministers of the Central Cabinet. This is called the National Development Council. This Council takes stock of the progress made under the second Five Year Plan and reviews the situation for the future.

*Villager* : It must be then an important body.

*Gram Sevak* : Oh yes, it is. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of this Council. Recently, the Council met in Delhi and made some important decisions. Among other things, they discussed the recommendations of the COPP report.

*Villager* : Is it the same report that you told me about last month ?

*Gram Sevak* : Yes, it is. Referring to this report, the Prime Minister said that the general principle of giving responsibility to the representatives of the people within the District should be accepted but the application of this principle has been left to the different State Governments.

*Villager* : I am sure something will come out of it but meanwhile Gram Sevak Sahib, do not forget my first problem. You must do something. Please try to get the Doctors and the nurses which you spoke about.

*Gram Sevak* : Oh yes, I will do that.

*Villager* : Thank you Gram Sevak Sahib.

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# Can Never Forget It

Dear Editor,

ONE AFTERNOON when I was walking to a village in Shahdara Block near Delhi in the scorching heat, I reached a village after about three hours' tiresome walk. I was visiting this village in connection with an Industrial Survey. I called on the Nambardar who was very kind and courteous. After having thanked him for his courtesy I explained the purpose of my visit. The Nambardar on hearing my purpose, became very serious and said that he would not be of any use to me. I was taken aback and had a feeling that perhaps I had not put across to him clearly my work in the village. I explained again the nature of my work and its usefulness to the village. But he was adamant and each time nodded his head with an emphatic 'no'. I then requested him to let me know the cause of his non-co-operation. While I was pleading with him, somebody from his house brought me a glass of *sharbat* and the Nambardar smilingly offered it to me. Finally the Nambardar explained his attitude. He said that he would give me all the data if I fulfilled three of his conditions. This was the limit, I thought. May be, the Nambardar was trying to strike a hard bargain and wanted some personal favour. Reluctantly I agreed to listen to his conditions. The first condition, he said, is that "you will empty this entire glass of *sharbat*. The second, you will have to eat Bajre Ki Roti and Saag with me and third you will stay with me for the night. If you agree to fulfil these three conditions, you will get all the data tomorrow morning." I felt greatly relieved and of course, I received all the help and co-operation from this kind and boistrous Nambardar.

*Yours etc.*

*Sohan Singh,*

*Extension Officer (Indus.)*

Young Farmers' Club : Poultry Farming

# The Changing Pattern

*From a Roving Correspondent*

*We give below the impressions of a Roving correspondent who visited a few Community Development Blocks in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kulu (Punjab Hills)*

KULU, situated in the colourful Kangra District of Eastern Punjab is one of the remotest areas of Northern India. Centuries of isolation from the rest of the country, poverty and illiteracy coupled with cold climate and a rough terrain has made this legendry 'valley of Gods' one of the most under-developed areas in whole of India. With the inauguration of the Community Development programme, the first real attempt was made to awaken the people from their age-long slumber. Today, in one of the blocks which I toured extensively I could not help noticing the improvement made in different fields. The programme has, to a very large extent, succeeded in initiating people into greater effort and greater awakening. Education, which was almost non-existent in the area has now become a very much sought-after need of the young children. A number of incidents were narrated to me by a local Gram Sevak, Anand Prakash about the opposition that he came across in his early attempts. When he approached the Harijan fami-

lies for sending their children to the newly started school, his suggestion was ridiculed. "Education is for the Brahmins and the higher castes. What have we, the humble folks, got to do with the learning of books?" he was told. My Gram Sevak friend was very particular that I should visit one of these families and see the change for himself. It was really a sight worth-remembering. I was ushered into and warmly welcomed by the family who lived in a neat and clean hut with one of the most beautiful flower beds in the compound and a separate place for the cattle. No miracle had been brought about. It was not expected either, but what I could not help experiencing was the urge of the people for leading a better, healthier and a happier life.

**RAJASTHAN**

From the smiling valley of Kulu to the desolate spectacle of Rajasthan was quite a change and it took me some time to adjust myself to the new environment in which I suddenly found myself. But the arid desert of Rajasthan had its own charms and going around the Community Development Block in this area was like travelling in time. In the small setting of a single village, you could find the mingling of two different period and two different ways of life. In Borundi, a village with a population of 3,000 situated at a distance of 12 miles from the Block headquarters, we noticed this contrast more clearly. The youthful Sarpanch was presiding over the progressive Panchayat and was trying to persuade a 70-year old man about some new project which the village was going to undertake. Wherever I went, people were found busy in trying to get more of water for which they considered no sacrifice small. "An important item of our work," the B.D.O. told me, "is to put first thing first. There is such a thing as a heirarchy of things. Take my block, for instance. Nothing excites people here more than the idea of new wells. Give the farmer water for his village and win his heart for ever." The B.D.O. illustrated his point by taking me round the Borundi village. About two or three years ago it was as good an arid part of Rajasthan as any other but today it boasts of a village with full rural water supply apparatus. Water from three power fitted, more than 100 ft. deep wells is carried by pipes to a huge reservoir which dominates the village scene.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

In U. P. I visited two blocks: Tarikhet in Almorah and Pilana in Meerut District. The striking feature of the Community Development programme in Kumaon hills is the manner in which it sets out to grapple with the problem of under-employment. One can get an idea of this problem by knowing something about the people in these areas. The Tarikhet block for instance, is spread over more than 57,000 acres of tough, mountainous terrain and has a population of nearly 56,000. On the advent of winter, every year nearly one-fourth of this population moves to the plains below looking for warmth and work. With the advent of the Community Development programme attempts were made to stop this seasonal migration. This meant developing as quickly as possible alternative means of livelihood and source of work near their own homes in the hills. There was enough land left uncultivated and it was felt by the project personnel that if this land could be made to produce something more useful and paying than food-grains (which are rather difficult to grow) the people might stay where they are. A campaign for the setting up of a Forest panchayat and small scale industrial co-operatives were therefore started. Gradually the people got interested in it and when we visited this area we found hundreds of tender plants growing all over the hills. The industrial co-operatives though not so successful, are really catching. The visit to Pilana, the block headquarters in the Meerut District of U.P., 40 miles from Delhi was a pleasant surprise and also an eye-opener. Before visiting this block, I never imagined that people's co-operation and determined effort to help themselves would succeed to such a large extent.

# Old Ladies And Young Women

**Kumari Kamla Khare**

*Asstt. Development Officer (Social Education—Women)*
*Block, Lalaurikhera (Philbit).*

WHILE RUNNING my small dispensary at the Block headquarters I met a number of women who would come to see me from the adjacent villages. The women of a particular village Sheoporia which is only about a mile away from the Block headquarters showed a great interest in me and became frequent visitors to my dispensary not only to seek remedy for their small ailments but also to consult me about their personal problems. Seeing them so interested, I felt that they should have a recreation centre in their own village. When I broached the matter, they listened to me with a hushed silence. Their attitude became rather mystified. I then decided to visit their village. I was welcomed by the village women who met me with all smiles and affection. This I thought, was a good augury. Soon all of them came to see me in the village. I again spoke about the need for their having a recreation centre where all the village ladies could come together and learn something from each other besides the fun that they would have. But again my proposal was received with cold silence. After probing into the matter further, I found that an old village woman belonging to a high caste was totally against this move and since she wielded considerable influence in the village, it was impossible to have a recreation centre for them.

After this I decided to tackle this women. Disregarding all the kind advice given to me by my friends, I called on her one morning. When she saw me and came to know who I was, she turned her head with great contempt and beckoned me to sit down. I spent about fifteen minutes with her but she would not condescend to talk to me.

I did not lose heart. I wanted to know the main cause of the resentment that this lady showed in the women's programme. Finally, I succeeded in getting at the root of the whole problem. It would appear that a few years ago, a lady school teacher had been appointed in the village girls school. Her character was not reported satisfactory. This rumour was enough to torpedo the women's programme. She was honestly apprehensive of any good coming out of either educating the women or providing them with any recreational facilities.

Once having understood the main reason of her resentment, it was not difficult for me to make her realise her mistake. This I had to do with great skill and I am afraid, with some craft. My visits to her became more frequent and I always agreed with her in her denunciation of the whole programme. Once or twice she hinted at the advisability of my resigning from my post and I said in reply that I was only waiting for an appropriate opportunity to do so. After about a month's time, the lady had entirely changed her attitude towards me. I was accepted as a worthy daughter of the household and treated as such.

One day with tears in my eyes, I came to see her and said that I had come to bid her good-bye. She was taken aback. I explained to her that since she would not allow me to start any activity connected with the women's programme, I had been asked by the Government to resign. The old lady was stunned. She did not know what to say. After having seriously thought the whole matter over, she took me to one of the corners of the villages along with other village ladies and said that this was the place where I could start my recreation centre. Once the ice was broken, there was no end to the enthusiasm of the other village ladies. Today this is one of the model recreational centres in our State.

**Japanese Method**

# *THE STORY OF MY LIFE*

I am the Japanese method of paddy cultivation and need no special introduction. The place of my origin, they say, is Japan. And now I am adopted by India. Let me tell you how I was discovered. As you know Japan consists of small islands full of mountains and hill tracts with less of arable land. So she could not grow enough food-stuffs for her native consumption. To have increased yield per acre, she had to do intensive cultivation in every inch of land available. After several years of research and experiments, the Japanese discovered me as the best method in paddy growing and found me giving more yield. I had a rapid progress in my native land and soon became popular. My fame and effectiveness spread to foreign countries. It reached India.

By that time India was suffering from poor yield per acre comparatively.

Attracted by me, the Indian Government sent some paddy specialists to my native land. These experts, during their stay in Japan, studied my method and being convinced of my giving good results, they brought me to India.

Here, first I was tried in agricultural research farms and was found satisfactory. The State Governments introduced me to the Indian farmer through their agricultural departments. Since then I am given much prominence and publicity.

Now let me tell you a few words about my method. Line planting is my most important feature. Select improved strains of paddy. Before sowing treat the seed with 'Agrason GN'. Have raised nursery beds. The main field should be well ploughed. Apply proper dosage of green leaf, compost-manure and chemical fertilisers. Transplant in lines. Space between the lines depends on the duration of the crop. Normally it should be six to ten inches. Please don't fail to do push-hoeing at regular intervals. Thus take care of me and I shall take care of you. To speak of my present life, I am running fourth year in India. I occupy unique place in the extension methods of agriculture. I have become a slogan in the grow more food campaign. My stature is becoming larger and larger. I am hailed on every public platform by leaders and field workers alike. I am trumpeted in the villages. A special place I have in the C.D. programme.

At thé same time, to be frank enough, I must confess that some officials and field workers treat me with contempt and consider me a headache. When they fall short of their achievements in the target fixed for me, they curse men. But with all the incentive given by the field workers, and with the earnest striving of the peasants I am making a peaceful revolution in the country side.

In spite of the cold reception I receive at some quarters I am confident, that in course of some years I will spread to the entire country and prove a great friend of the Indian farmer.

*—E. Desingu Setty,*
*V.L.W., N.E.S. Block*
*Remgunta—Andhra.*

# CAMERAS

Sir,

My experience as a Gram Sevak has made me realise the necessity for a camera. A Gram Sevak has to work in the various developmental activities and in his daily visits, he finds many things which if photographed, could be of great help to the people in other villages. Besides this, he can make use of the camera in taking the photographs of the modern constructional works like sanitary wells, smokeless, chullas, water sealed latrines, school buildings etc. The camera is also one of the extension-media. It can help villagers and Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas as much as the literature on Community Development.

May I therefore suggest that each Gram Sevak and Gram Sevika should be supplied with a cemera?

C.D. Block, Lahar.
Distt Bhind (M.P.)
18-1-58

Yours etc.
R. D. Gupta,
V.L.W.

(We appreciate our correspondent's suggestion of the need of a camera for each Gram Sevak but it is obviously an impracticable suggestion today. B.D.Os in the C.D. Blocks have cameras and there is no reason why they should not let the Gram Sevaks use them on special occasions.—Ed.).

# FARM LEADERS' CAMPS: A REPORT

STARTED on October 2, 1957 about 10,76,000 Gram Sahayaks will have received their training from different camps organised all over the country by October 2, this year. The need for Gram Sahayaks arose from the fact that the Gram Sevak or the Village Level Worker who was put incharge of about ten villages could not do full justice to his work. It was also realised that the Community Development programme which is meant to be essentially a people's programme could not receive people's participation unless the local village leaders were thoroughly acquainted with various aspects of the programme. It was, therefore, felt that the Gram Sahayaks should receive training in development subjects in order to make them useful leaders of the community. It was not intended that the trainees should become experts. What was sought to achieve through these training centres was to effectively enlarge their outlook and their attitudes and habits. These Gram Sahayaks after they receive the training are to become some sort of honorary resident Gram Sevaks in that group of subjects in which they receive training. Some of these subjects are: agriculture which includes animal husbandry and minor irrigation, women's programme, panchayats, co-operatives and communications, social education, sanitation and public health, village industries and rural housing.

The selection of village leaders is rather a difficult problem and every attempt is, therefore, made by the project staff to select proper men for training. The Block Development Officer makes a preliminary selection of leaders in consultation with the Gram Sevak and the Block staff. Since panchayat has been recognised as the sole institutional agency at the village level to plan and implement programme of development, the village leaders are finally selected by joint consultation of the panchayat and the Block staff. Where there are no panchayats the approval of local institutions like co-operatives or village development councils are obtained.

A camp is organised for every Gram Sevak's circle. The extent of each camp normally consists of about fifty leaders. An attempt is made for the representation of every village in proportion to its population. The duration of the camp is three full days. The daily programme for the campers is fairly strenuous. From five in the morning to ten at night, the hours are so arranged as to get maximum benefit out of every minute. Special attention is paid to important items of work which the leaders then practise in their own villages. Topics like soil fertility, improved techniques of cultivation, including improved seeds, improved implements, plant-protection measures, preventives against cattle diseases etc. are given special emphasis. The idea is that on return, the trainees should be able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired at the camp.

Progress achieved in the setting up of the Gram Sahayak camps by the end of December, 1957 in some states is given below :—

**Orissa:** In Orissa 93 camps were held in 87 Blocks in which 4,650 village leaders were trained. During these camps held in various parts of the State, it was found that the interest of the trainees was mostly fixed in the group discussions and demonstrative plots. There were some interesting side-lights of these camps. For instance a village leader from the hill District came with a proposal to allow him to bring along with him a companion as it was hazardous to pass through a tiger infested forest road. Another suggested that his wife and daughter should attend the camps as they had to be taught the use of Japanese weeder. "After all", he enquired, "weeding work is being done by them and they should also see the improved winnower, as they help in winnowing".

**Kerala:** Down in the south in Kerala, about 4,500 village leaders were trained

by the end of November 1957. As in other camps, special care is taken in selecting proper leaders in arranging exhibitions, conducting demonstration, holding talks and discussions. The trainees along with villagers join hands in Shramdan and says our correspondent, "It was an interesting sight to see them working together for the sake of common good".

**Madras:** In Madras, the organisation of the Gram Sahayak training camps was not anything new. The Government of Madras had already introduced in 1955 a comprehensive programme for conducting short-term training for village leaders. But after October 2, 1957 the only change introduced was that these village leaders were trained essentially in agricultural subjects. A model camp was first organised in Pandur village (Changalpur District) and 46 village leaders representing the various village organisations participated in the camp. As a result of these camps the leaders were convinced that the Japanese method of paddy cultivation was really profitable and they resolved to adopt this method. A number of camps are being held now all over the State and the target of holding ten camps in each Gram Sevak's unit of the Block will be finalised by the end of October 1958.

**Assam:** In the east in Assam, 200 camps were organised and by the end of December 1957 about 9,000 village leaders were trained. The programme of village leaders training camp was started in Assam from the month of June 1957 with the appointment of Deputy Director (Training) in charge of village leaders. The programme was worked out in three phases :

1. The extension officers received training at every District headquarters.
2. The V.L.Ws of the Blocks concerned received their training at their respective Block headquarters under the direct supervision of the Block Development officers assisted by the Districts, heads of Development departments and other technical officers attached to the individual Block. The next phase was the organisation of actual village leaders training camps. The first series of camp with a tentative target of 10 camps per Block in each Gram Sevak's circle were almost wholly confined to agriculture and allied subjects

An interesting incident of the very first village leaders' training camp in Demoria C.D. Block was that the people were so interested and convinced of efficiency of the new board ploughs (produced in Assam) that the campers purchased both the ploughs used for the demonstration in the camp on cash payment. More of such ploughs are now on demand. Similar is the case with other improved agricultural implements.

**Madhya Pradesh:** In Madhya Pradesh, 450 camps were held by the end of December 1957 and 13,500 village leaders received their training. The camps in the beginning were organised on no-cost basis and the host villages made arrangements by collecting necessaries in kind. Difficulties were, however, experienced in running the camps on no-cost basis in some areas and the Government have now allotted an expenditure of As 12 per trainee from the Block fund. The special features of these camps are exhibitions, and entertainments. Exhibitions are arranged on items such as improved agricultural implements, chemical manure improved seeds, green manure, improved varieties of fruits and vegetables locally grown, pesticides and insecticides, stools and apparatus on animal husbandry. Every camp has also its own entertainment proramme. In these programmes, men and women participate freely.

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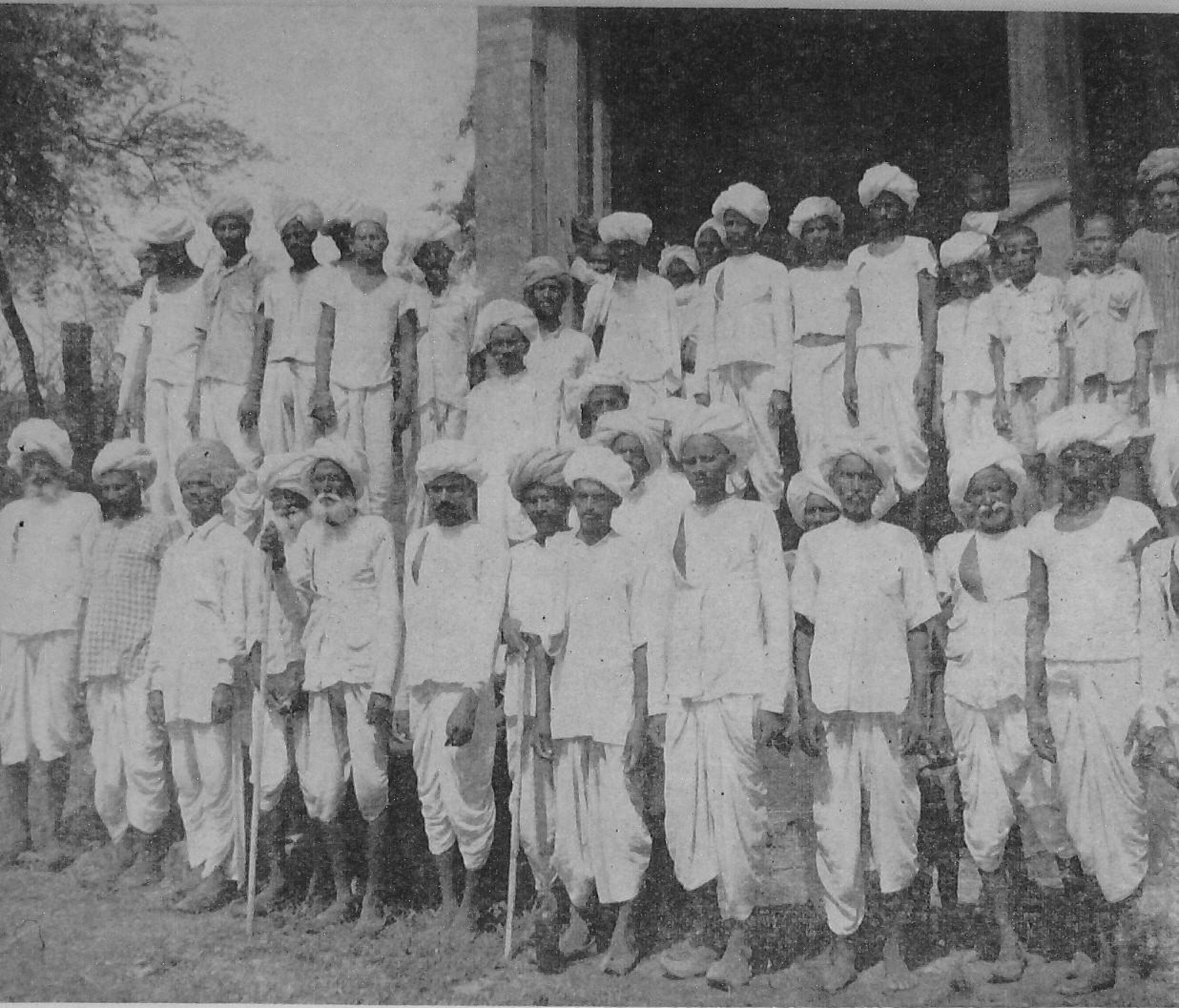
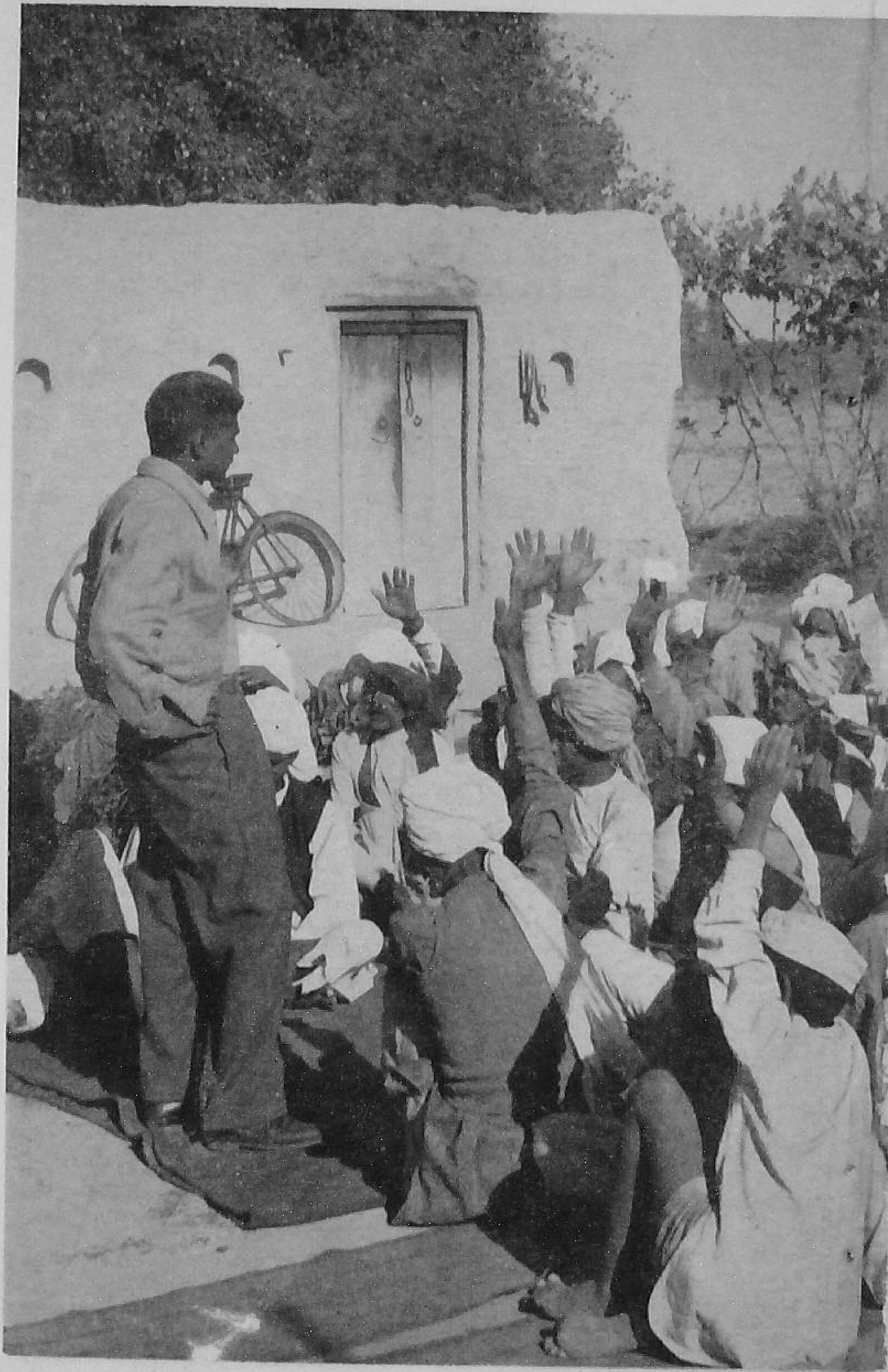
A foolish and lazy borrower is a liability not merely to himself but to the creditor as well. We have no right to call ourselves a free people if we have to continue the economic dependence and what is infinitely worse, dependence on food which constitutes the very base of life.—*From a Wayfarer's Diary.*



Farmers and farm leaders of the Bilara Community Development Block in Rajasthan
who helped to build a two-mile road in one day

Call Bell for Morning Prayer

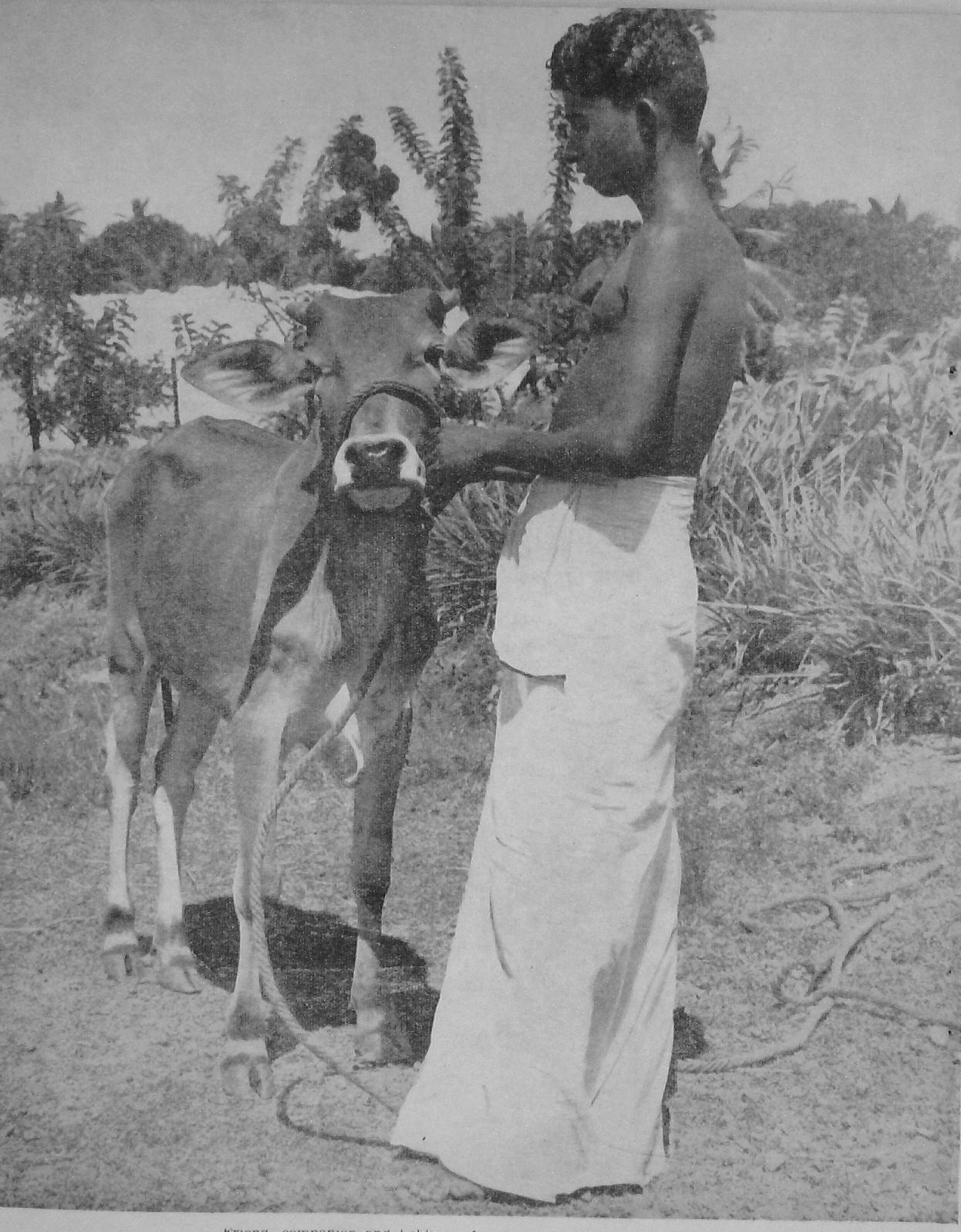
# GRAM SAHAYAKS' CAMP SCENES



Typical Camp Scene : Gram Sahay
practices by ho

ks signify agreement to follow improved
ding up their hands

Mid-day Meal



Friend, companion and hobby: A news picture from Kerala

# India Grows 4,000 Varieties of Rice

Of the 7,000 obtanical varieties of rice known in the world, 4,000 are grown in India. Nearly two-thirds of the annual rice production is retained by the producers for domestic consumption, barter sales, seed and payments in kind, releasing only one-third to the market.

More than 90 per cent of the rice grown is consumed in various cooked preparations, the bulk being eaten in the form of plain boiled rice.

The highest per capita consumption is 314 lb. per annum in West Bengal. Next in order are Assam, Madras and Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh and the Punjab account for lowest consumption —74 and 20 lb. respectively. These facts are revealed in a monograph. "Rice in India", published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The monograph points out that the yield in India is very low; although with 75 million acres, which is about a third of the world acreage under rice, India is the largest rice growing country in the world. Of the total Indian acreage under rice Bihar has the largest area—17.4 per cent. West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa come next with 12.13 per cent each. Assam and Andhra, though important rice growing areas, have only 5 per cent each.

The average yield in India is 772 lbs. per acre of clean rice as compared to 3,234 lbs. in Spain, 3,105 lb. in Italy, and 2,351 lbs. in Japan. Main cause of such a low yield is the dependence of the crop on the vagaries of the monsoon; only about 25 per cent of the area under rice has protective irrigation.

According to the monograph experimental results have indicated that the yield can appreciably be improved by timely preparation of land, use of improved seeds, application of manures and fertilizers and adequate after-care of the crop. The Japanese method, which is in fact a combination of scientific techniques in paddy production can easily double the rice yield in India.

To bring about a standard system of classifying rices and to establish uniformity, measures have been taken under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937. For increasing the producers' share in the rupee paid by the consumer, markets have been regulated in the Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Steps are being taken to enact legislation in other States also. The monograph extensively deals with research and extension work being carried out in different parts of the country. Marketing and processing practices and the technology of rice are also dealt with.

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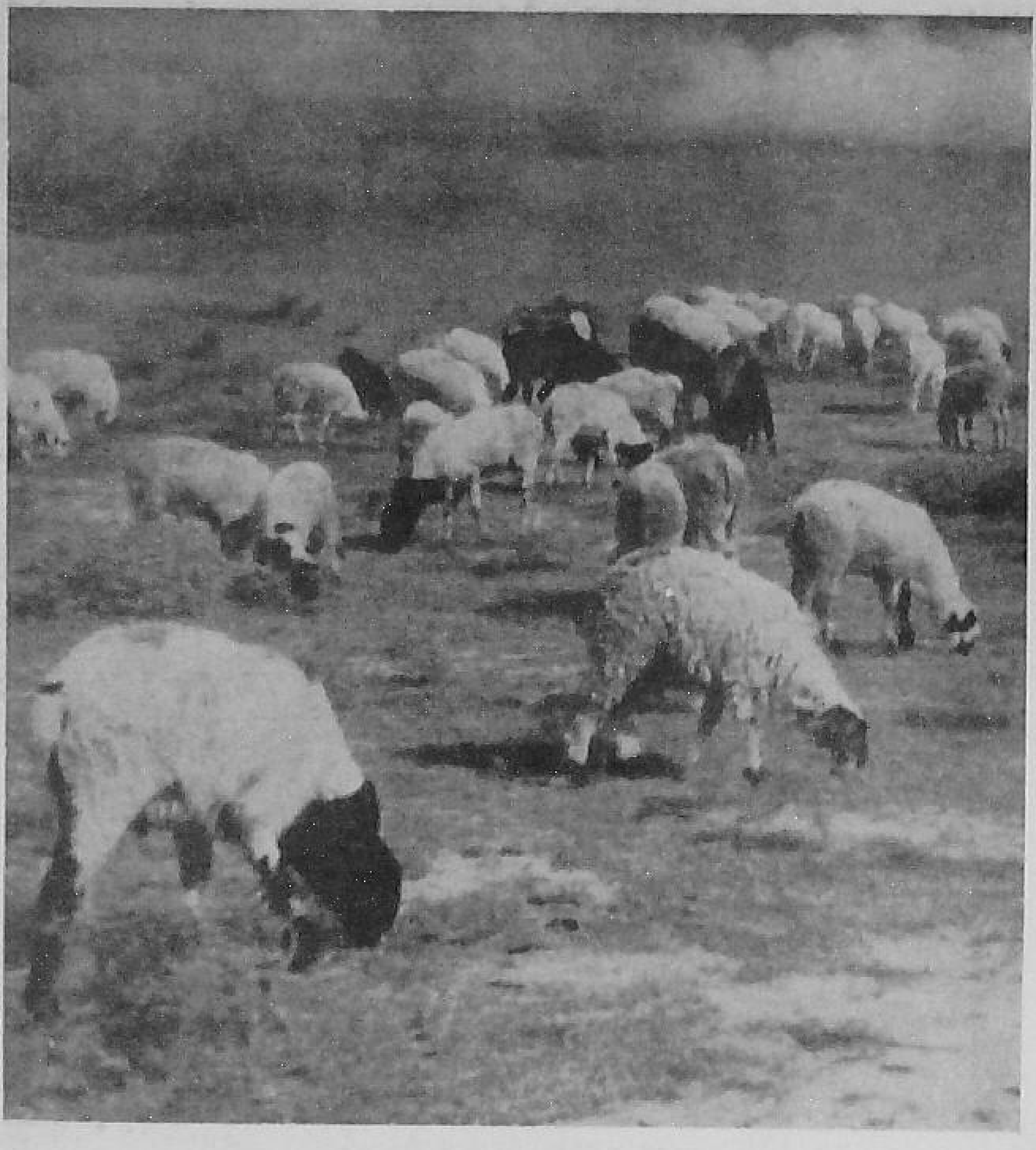
# Manures

The Government of India have formulated two schemes for intensive development of local manurial resources in the rural areas to step up agricultural production. Under the first scheme, which envisages maximum exploitation of local manurial resources in C.D. and N.E.S. blocks, 2,100 village-level workers will be trained and appointed as compost inspectors by 1961. The second scheme aims at production through hot fermentation process of compost manure from human and agricultural wastes in as many as 6,000 panchayats by the end of the Second Plan period. It is estimated that, if the compost and local manure produced under the schemes are scientifically utilised, it will be possible to grow 1/4 million tons of additional foodgrains, valued at Rs. 392 millions.



# SHEEP

INDIA ranks fifth in the world today so far as the number of sheep is concerned. Roughly there are nearly 60 crores of sheep in the world today out of which our country accounts for 4 crores. Sheeps in India do not compare favourably with those of Australia, New Zealand, or other countries of the West. Sheep rearing still continues to be in a primitive stage. The value of sheep in terms of money, food and manure is not yet fully realized. Sheep, despite the little attention that is paid to them in the country, supply 6 crore pounds of wool, half of which, valued at Rs. 9 crores is exported. Export of sheep-skin earns for the country an additional Rs. 6 crores by way of foreign exchange. Besides, flock-owners earn about Rs. 30 crores through the sale of surplus sheep in the market.

Uptil now sheep is considered important for the production of wool and mutton. Few have realized their importance for agriculture. It is said wherever flocks of sheep are nourished and cared for, agriculture thrives and sheep's "golden hoof" brings prosperity to its owners. Sheep enrich the soil with manure which has twice as much of nitrogen and potassium as cattle manure and its effects last for long periods. Each single sheep provides 14 to 20 lbs. of manure per year.

The maximum concentration of wool-yielding sheep in our country is in the arid regions of the North Indian Plains and the Joria regions of northern Bombay. The Deccan Plateau, extending from the Vindhya mountains to be Nilgri hills, has the largest number of sheep in India.

Rajasthan has got over 2 million sheep and contributes a third of the total wool exported from the country. The brownheaded 'Chokla' breed of this area is known for its carpet wool. Northern Bombay supplies 'Joria' wool clip which is second only to Bikaneer wool in quality. The major ten wool producing States of India are Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Himachal Pradesh, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Mysore, Jammu and Kashmir.

The 'Lohi' sheep of the Punjab, although with a coarse long-staple fleece, is one of Asia's outstanding breeds for the production of quality meat. It also produces an appreciable quantity of milk. The 'Mandya' sheep of the South is famous for quality meat and the small 'Bannur' variety is excellent for rearing in a mixed farming economy.

The Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore

# FOOD FOR MILLIONS

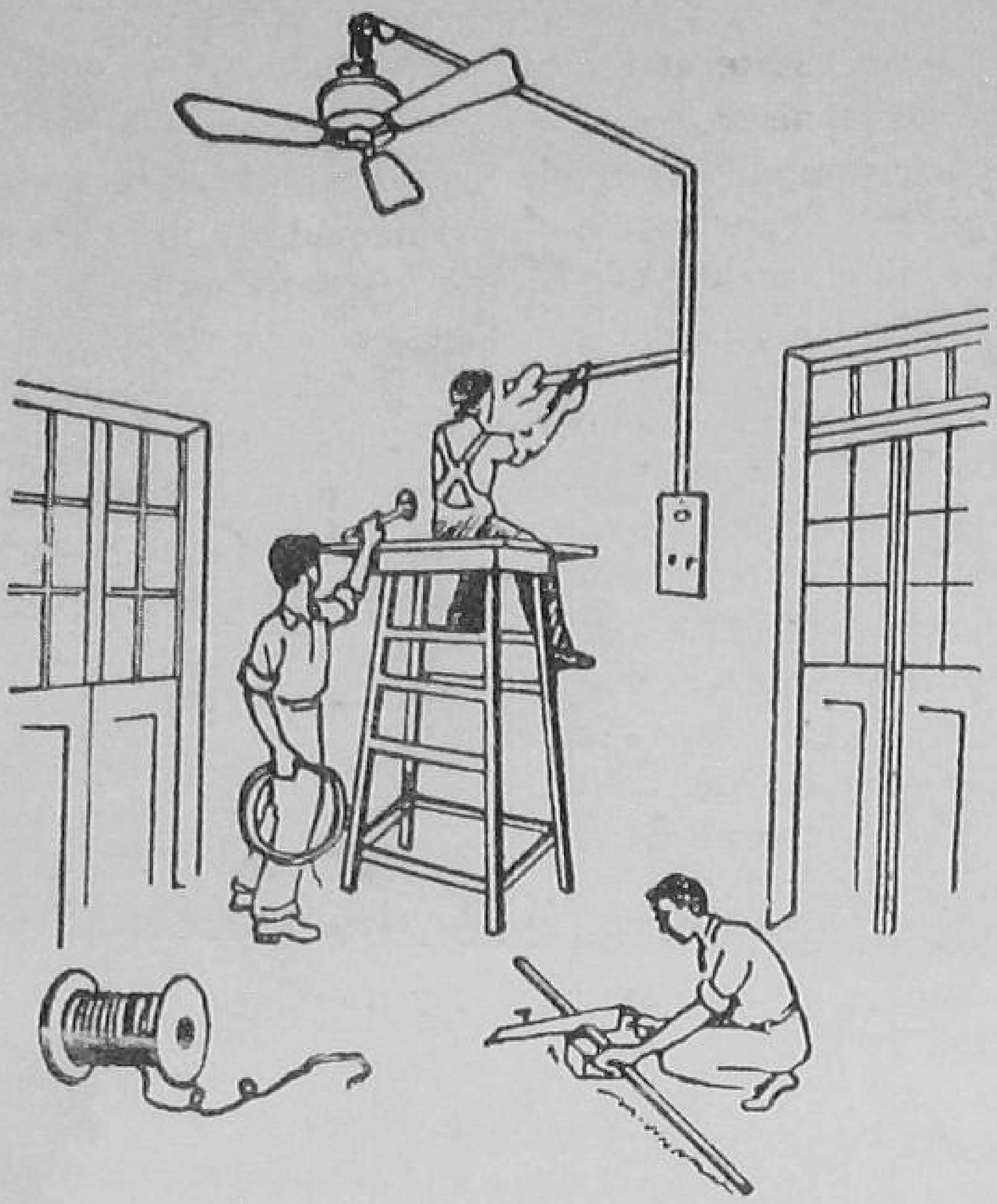
WE ARE suffering not only from shortage of food but also wastage of food. On the one hand our food production is very much short of our requirements but on the other, a lot of food is wasted due to defective storage and the defective preparation of the food that we eat. In order to check some of these defects, the Food Technological Research Institute was set up in October, 1950 in Mysore. This institute has been doing research on (1) the application of modern processing methods for the better conservation and more efficient utilisation of the country's food resources; (2) assistance to basic food industries; (3) methods for the proper food grain storage and (4) correcting faulty diets, particularly the lack of protective food through the production of new nutritious food and supplements for tackling the problem of mal-nutrition.

The institute has already done some useful work for converting coarse and second grade food articles into acceptable forms of first grade food. A significant contribution has been the manufacture of composite grain substitutes based on cheap indigenous materials. For instance, from Tapioca, a common vegetable of Kerala, has been made 'Tapioca Macaroni' which is twice as nutritive as rice. Another useful product is the protein—rich Indian multipurpose food which overcomes many diet deficiencies. This product, manufactured from specially prepared groundnut flour and certain pulses can be incorporated in the normal food, necessitating no change in dietary habits. A person can get over these deficiencies by daily using 1-2 ozs. of the multi-purpose food at the cost of about 5 nP. Based on this product, biscuits have been made having thrice as much protein as those which are now marketed.

**THE TEST**

We are going to be judged today, tomorrow as well as the day-after, by what we achieve in the direction of self-sufficiency in agriculture, self-reliance and autonomy in the institutions of our people, and by the scientific knowledge coupled with a determination for its extension that we instil into our Technical Departments.

*—From a wayfarer's Diary*



CAREERS OPEN TO YOU (3)

# THE WIREMAN

*There are hundreds of occupations which call out for more and more men and women. And still there is the cry of unemployment. The Ministry of Labour have issued a number of pamphlets on the various professions open to young men and women. We propose to deal in each issue with a particular trade or profession open to any one who is prepared to work with his hands. This is the third article in the series.*

A WIREMAN'S work is to carry out and maintain the wiring of electric lighting, heating, and power installations, distribution systems and fixtures in buildings.

A wireman carries out his job under the general instructions of a competent supervisor. Insulated wires, covered by lead, or plastic material, or vulcanised rubber, are used in wood casing, on narrow wooden strips, or through pipes. Before wiring is begun, working lines conforming to drawings and diagrams already prepared are marked on the walls and ceilings of the building to be wired. Wooden blocks are then fixed, where necessary, by cutting or drilling small holes in the brick or wood work. Wooden casing is next cut to required measurements and screwed on to the wooden blocks. Rubber-covered pieces of wire, leading to different distribution points are inserted in the casing which is then closed with wooden covers. Lead wiring is also carried out in the same manner, on the walls, ceiling etc., but without any casing and secured into position with clips. For conduit (pipe) wiring, pipes are laid on floors, ceilings and walls before plastering. Later on insulated electric wires and cables are grouped together and drawn through conduits with a leading steel wire.

Switch boards, distribution boards, junction boxes, metermains, cut-outs etc., are then fastened into position and connected with the wiring system. On completion of the work, the entire installation is tested (and, if necessary, rectified) for conformity with the India Electricity Rules before it is connected with the supply mains.

A wireman may work either independently or with others. The work is usually done indoors, in all types of buildings from small tenements to palatial buildings and huge factories. The work is done with the hands. It involves constant standing, bending, and the scaling of ladders to work at heights. Most of the States have laid down that a wireman should hold a certificate of competency issued by the State Electricity Licensing Board, under the Indian Electricity Act of 1910.

Personal Qualities necessary for the job are an enthusiasm for manual work, skill in using the hands for quick and accurate performance, steady nerves and a sense of responsibility for carrying out a job thoroughly and within time-schedules.

**Training**

To Qualify one may undergo training in one of the following ways :—

(a) Apprenticeship is the usual method of acquiring qualification. Most wiremen begin as helpers, or apprentices under experienced electricians and wiremen employed in private shops, establishments, etc. The basic training is obtained gradually through actual working on the job. An apprentice of average ability may be able to handle a job independently after 6 to 9 month's apprenticeship. Usually, no wages are paid to apprentices during the early months of training i.e. till they are able to show an output to their credit. No rigid educational qualifications or age limits are prescribed for apprentices. Persons of varying ages, from literates to matriculates, find entry into the occupation.

(b) Trade Schools run by educational trusts charitable societies and private bodies, take in boys who have generally reached the sixth class to middle-school standard. The duration of training varies from six months to two years.

The names and details of such schools, which exist in almost every State and are usually recognised by the State Government, are available from the Departments of Technical Engineering Education or Industries.

Part-time courses of about six months' duration, intended for persons who have attained matriculation standard and have had at least three years' practical experience in electrical works, are also available at institutes, including the Government Engineering College, Jabalpur, the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, the A.V. Parekh Technical Institution, Rajkot, the Sir Cusrow Wadia Institute of Electrical Technology, Poona.

Tution is generally free, and where a fee is charged, it ranges from Rs. 2|- to Rs. 5|- per month.

(c) Training Schemes run by the Departments of Industries, or by the Departments of Technical or Engineering Education under State Governments, also provide facilities for training, the duration of which varies from six months to two years. Under most schemes no tuition fee is charged; on the other hand, a number of stipends are awarded to deserving trainees.

Instruction is imparted in the following subjects :—

Applied electricity, electrical installation work, Indian Electricity Rules, domestic installation, industrial installation, overhead installation, underground cable work, calculation on power and energy, etc.

Further training can be obtained, either in an institution or by working on the job, to qualify for employment as electricians, armature winders, switchboard attendants, cable joiners, dynamo repairers, etc. Matriculates, with two years' approved apprenticeship, can join the course for the National Certificate (equivalent to a university diploma) in electricity held by the All-India Council of Technical Education.

**Openings**

Openings for wiremen exist in many fields, both under Government and private employers — Railways, Public Works Departments, Posts and Telegraphs, power houses, industrial establishments, private shops, electrical contractors, etc. Most wiremen are employed on new installations; many are, however, also engaged on maintenance work.

**Qualification**

To be eligible for employment, applicants should hold at least a second class wireman's certificate, awarded by the Electrical Departments of various State Governments by passing the prescribed examination usually held after one year's training or experience.

Entry into the profession is through Employment Exchanges and by direct approach to prospective employers, particularly electrical contractors. In a few cases,

vacancies are advertised. Apprentices are quite often absorbed by the employers under whom they complete their apprenticeship training.

PROSPECTS

Prospects for Advancement generally exist for educated technicians, matriculates and non-matriculates; but persons have to undergo further training or acquire job experience to be eligible for better-paid posts.

SALARIES

Salaries admissible to wiremen, electricians, etc., (not including dearness and other allowances), under the Central Government are :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wireman : Grade II | .. | Rs. 25-1-50 |
| Grade I | .. | Rs. 30-1-50-2-60 |
| Junior Electrician | .. | Rs. 40-2-60-5/2-75 |
| Senior Electrician | .. | Rs. 60-5/2-75 |
| Mechanic .. | .. | Rs. 75-5-150 |
| Instructor .. | .. | Rs. 80-5-120-8-200. |

Further Information can be got from :—

(1) The Director of Industries|Technical Education of your State for information on training facilities under State Government.

(2) The Principals of the Training Institutes, providing facilities for wiremen's training.

(3) The Employment Exchange serving your area for information on training and apprenticeship facilities, as well as for employment assistance.

★

# Crop Competitions

To increase food production further and induce the farmer to adopt improved agricultural practices, the Government of India launched a scheme for all India crop competitions in 1949.

There are about 6 lakh villages in India, and it was envisaged that if, on an average, each village has 20 competitors, about 1.17 crore acres of land will be brought under crop competitions. If an acre gives an extra yield of 5 maunds, the total additional yield as a result of crop competitions will come to about 5.85 crore maunds or about 21.5 lakh tons a year.

During 1949-50, competitions were organized for three crops, namely, paddy, wheat and potatoes. From 1951-52 onwards, gram, jowar and bajra have also been included. The winners of all India competitions are awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 each and a certificate of Krishi Pandit.

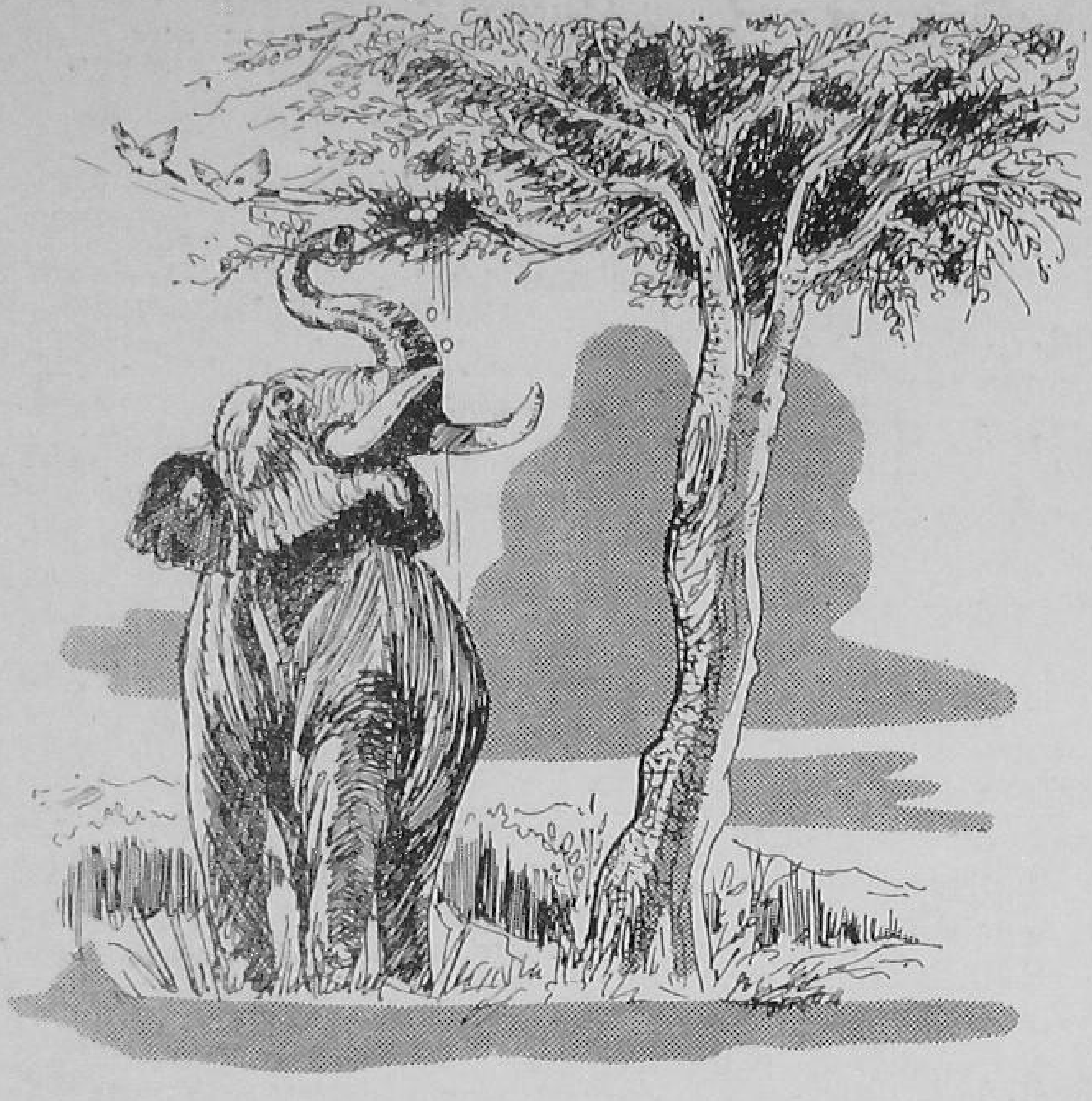
In the first year of the competition, only three States participated, there being 19,272 entries and the area brought under cultivation 36,445 acres. In 1950-51, the number of participating States rose to 15, competitors to 103,966 area under competition to 103,539 acres.

In 1951-52, the response was more encouraging. Twenty States organized the competition, the number of competitors being 205,969 and the area under competition 138,868 acres. In 1952-53, 21 States participated in the scheme. The number of competitors was 196,781, with an area of 159,001 acres. In 1953-54, 24 States participated, covering an area of 246,489 acres.

In 1954-55, 13 States participated, but the number of the competitors and the area continued to increase. The total additional production during the year was more than 25 lakh maunds.

The statement below shows the record yields obtained by Krishi Pandits :

| Year | Crop | State | Name and Address of the Krishi Pandit | Highest yield per acre. Mds. | Srs. | Chs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1949-50 | Paddy | W. Bengal | Shri J. C. Pani Vil. Mania P.O. Gidney, Distt. Midnapur | 73 | 13 | .. |
| | Wheat | U.P. | Shri Jagdish Prakash Vil. Nowana, Distt. Meerut. | 58 | 13 | .. |
| | Potatoes | U.P. | Shri Ratan Parkash, P.O. Nagpur, Distt. Meerut | 679 | 21 | .. |
| 1950-51 | Paddy | Madras | Shri K. Vellaiya, Gounder, Vil. Thathamatti, P.O. Barur, Taluka, Krishnagiri, Distt. Salen | 124 | .. | .. |
| | Wheat | U.P. | Shri Padam Singh, Vil. Shimpur, P.O. Hapur, Distt. Meerut | 59 | 25 | .. |
| | Potatoes | U.P. | Shri Madho Kripal, Rooti Khunj, Hapur, Distt. Meerut | 726 | 3 | 3 |
| 1951-52 | Paddy | Coorg | Shri J. C. Sangayya, Vil. Alur, P.O. Somwarpet | 136 | 5 | 14 |
| | Wheat | Punjab | Sardar Gurdev Singh, National Model Farm, Vil. Kalamjra, near Khanna, Teh. Samrala, Distt. Ludhiana | 71 | 23 | 10 |
| | Potatoes | U.P. | Shri Jaipal, Chandra Tehsil, Bulandshahr | 735 | 24 | .. |
| | Gram | Punjab | Shri Walaiti Ram Lambardar, Vil. Agwar, P.O. Kahju Baju, Tehsil, Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana | 46 | 2 | .. |
| | Jowar | Bombay | Shri Bhimgonda Dada, Patil, Taluka Shirol, Distt. Kolhapur | 84 | 23 | 5 |
| | Bajra | Bombay | Shri Vaman Ramchandra, Marathe of Arthe B.K. Taluka, Sirpur, Distt. Khandesh | 29 | 11 | 10 |
| 1953-54 | Wheat | U.P. | Shri Ram Krishna Singh, Vil. Barkatpur, Distt. Bulandshahr | 64 | 11 | 8 |
| 1954-55 | Wheat | M.P. | Shri Rishabhkumar, Kuraj, Distt. Sagar | 72 | 2 | 9 |
| | Paddy | M.P. | Shri Narayan Lal, Gopalrao Ujaone, V. Pardi, Teh. Sakoli, Distt. Bhandra | 102 | 7 | 9 |
| | Jowar | Bombay | Shri Vyankatrao, Bhaga Patil, Vil. Virawali, Teh. Vavala, Distt. East Khandesh | 88 | 22 | .. |



STORIES FROM PANCHTANTRA.—No. 6.

# Elephant and the Sparrow

TODAY I shall tell you the story of a small sparrow who killed a huge elephant through its resourcefulness. It all started like this. A sparrow and his wife lived comfortably in their nest on a tree in a dense jungle. One day an elephant who had run amuck because of the summer heat came to the part of the jungle where the sparrows lived. It so happened that the elephant sought shelter under the shade of the tree on which the sparrows lived. He found the shade quite cool and in his madness broke with his powerful trunk the branch in which the sparrows had built their nest. The branch fell down and the eggs which the sparrow's wife had laid were broken. She was very much grief-stricken on the loss of her small chicks.

The sparrow consoled her and told her that he would see to it that the elephant is taught a lesson for the misery which he had brought upon them. Hearing the laments of the hen-sparrow, a wood-pecker who was a great friend of the sparrows came to enquire about the misfortune. The hen-sparrow asked him if he could help them in killing the big elephant. "Of course, I am ready to help," said the wood-pecker. "But before doing anything, I want you to consult a friend of mine." Then the three of them went to the wood-peacker's friend who was a gnat. The gnat heard this story of woe and told them that though he had a plan in his mind, but, before acting on that, he would very much like them to consult his friend who was a frog named Meghdhuta. Meghdhuta, after hearing the entire story, was very much enraged. Now it so happened that this frog was a very wise creature and after giving some thought to the whole problem, he came out with a suggestion. Addressing his friend gnat he asked him to go and buzz in the ear of the elephant so that he may shut his eye in delight on hearing his music. The wood-pecker was asked to peck out the eyes of the elephant with his bill. After that, he told them he would sit on the edge of a pit and croak and the elephant feeling thirsty, on hearing the croaking of the frog, would approach the pit to find some water "and the moment he comes to the pit," he told his friend in delight, "he will fall in and perish".

This plan was carried out and the elephant lost his life. That is why it has been truly said that small things when they are united, can defeat even the most powerful enemy.

# A Road Constructed

*P. Rajagopalan*

The existence of a village called B in Kerala had no significance either for its own inhabitants or outsiders. To the people who live there the village was nothing more than a vast and rugged country-side which accommodated their little homes. It mattered little to them, if the land that lay beyond their courtyards became water one day and air next day.

The local officials in charge of Development work turned their attention to it. The village had no level ground, much less a road, to boast of. Wild nature had been left entirely to herself.

The first requisite therefore was to lay a road to it—to make it accessible from outside. And to this the officials turned their attention.

Such was the land and such were the people whom the officials had to tackle. A plan was prepared for laying a two mile long road which would circle round the village and take it on to modern civilisation—bazar, schools and hospitals. The course of the road lay along private lands and the owners had to be won over to grant permission. A committee was formed to collect money, materials, land and labour. Its members set themselves to work enthusiastically. They begged and borrowed, covered and cojoled and slowly the road began to move on.

No sooner had it gone about a mile than it came to a sudden stop. It touched the end of a compound of a landlord. The road seemed to swallow a long slice of the compound and the landlord would not allow it. A road ending in the middle might be like a single scissor and the money and labour spent might be a waste but that was no concern of his. It was moon shine to talk of allowing a public road into one's land—dearly bought land. Well, to-morrow people could as well ask permission to cut a channel across one's back. He would hear no arguments about it—it was like cutting into the very marrow of his bones. It was presumptuous for men to mend what God had made.

It was like a ship wreck. The road had dashed against a hardy rock. He would hold a sheath of documents in his hand and would wave it in the air if any one approached him to plead for the road. Civil law was his passion and litigation his body. He found solace and comfort in a court like a child finds its joy in its mother's bosom. The road committee was on live coals. There was no getting out of it. To abandon the road would be to make the work so far done a wanton waste. To change its course was a physical impossibility. The land owner was as adamant as a rock. The Committee at last decided on the only course open to them. One morning they set their labourers on to work on the land owner's compound. Its border, to a width of a few feet was levelled into a road. The owner did not raise his little finger when the work was on. The road was formed, levelled and metalled and inaugurated too at a grand ceremony. The committee and the public at large thought that they had benumbed the intransigent land owner. Every one felt pity for him for he could have lost his ground with grace.

Hardly had the jubilation of the inauguration ceremony died out when one day a policeman walked into the house of the President of the Road Committee. He had a summon from the court to answer the charge of tresspass. A week later the President found himself in the dock.

The President was penniless and had no pleader. He had no choice but to plead guilty. The judge too had no alternative. The President was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50 and in default to undergo simple imprisonment for two weeks. The news of the President's conviction spread among the villagers like wild fire. Money began to pour in not for the payment of the fine but to prefer an appeal. But the President did not choose to do so. He paid the fine out of the collections. His conviction thus ended in collective fines voluntarily paid.

# Prizes for Villages and V.L.Ws.

Our readers are already familiar with the details of the prize competition among the V.L.Ws. at the various levels announced in our October issue. It has now been decided that this scheme should be supplemented by a similar competition in the same field among the villages within the circles of V.L.Ws who win the prizes so that there could be an incentive for the villagers to synchronize their efforts with those of the village level workers. The period of competition as well as the process of adjudication under this scheme will be the same as in the case of the scheme of competition among the village level workers. The scheme will be implemented between April and September 1958.

The best villages in the circles of the V.L.Ws., who win the prizes at the District Level, the State Level and the National Level, will be presented with cash prizes of Rs. 250, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 5,000, respectively.

*Field of competition*:—This will be the same as in the case of the V.L.Ws. For example, if the V.L.W. has been assigned a task of increasing agricultural production by way of distribution of improved seeds, fertilizers, more acreage under Japanese method of cultivation, contour bunding, etc., the same criteria would be applied to the villages in his circles in order to select the best village. The prize money would be given to the Panchayat of that village to be utilised for furthering the common programme of the village for increasing agricultural production. If the villages do not have a Panchayat, then the money would be made available to the Vikas Mandal that has already been formed in the village. If the village forms part of a Panchayat, as it may be in certain cases, then the total achievement of a Panchayat will be taken into consideration. For the purpose of comparative assessment the achievements of the village or villages forming a Panchayat will be taken into consideration. So, it will not be the revenue boundary of a village, but the Panchayat which will be the unit of competition.

*Adjudication*:—The process of adjudication would be the same as in the case of the V.L.Ws. After the best V.L.Ws at the three levels have been selected, the District Collector and the B.D.O. with a Committee of officials and non-officials would find out the production achievements of each village in the V.L.W.'s circle, and by a comparative assessment the best village in that circle would be selected.

*Financial implications*:—The following number of prizes are to be awarded to the V.L.Ws.

| | |
|---|---|
| National Level: | One |
| State Level: | Fifteen |
| District Level: | Three hundred and thirty. |

The same number of prizes will have to be awarded to equal number of villages.

The following prizes will be awarded:—

| | |
|---|---|
| National Level Prize | Rs. 5,000. |
| State Level Prizes | Rs. 1,000 each. |
| District Level Prizes | Rs. 250 each. |

## SAMPLE FOR B.D.Os.

Sir,

The normal practice today is that all Block officers, District officers and Block level extension officers issue circulars and office orders to lowest functionary—the Gram Sevak. While we do not object to the orders as such, we would appreciate if those who issued these orders could give some thought to the feasibility of carrying those out within the stipulated time. The orders which very often seek some information simply state "reply by the return of post or within such and such date". Every day a V.L.W. receives three or four orders of this nature which seek information on social education, agriculture or animal husbandry, etc. The information is generally required urgently. If the V.L.W. tries honestly to seek this information, it takes some time and explanation is called for from him. The only other alternative left to him is to cook up some figures and pass them on to the higher authorities.

To avoid this unhappy state of affairs, may I make a suggestion? In order to make the B.D.O. realise the amount of work which his orders entail, he should be made to look after two or three villages where he would also work as the Gram Sevak; whenever he issues a circular to other V.L.Ws. he should honestly try to collect the necessary information for his own villages. This would certainly make him and the others of his kind realise the difficulties that the V.L.Ws. experience and also the handicaps that they have to encounter in their every day work in the field.

Yours etc.
M. K. Chawda,
Nakhatrana, Kutch,
Bombay State

16-1-58

Village scene : Kulu

New Methods : A Bumper crop

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Regd. D--877